

Nevada Indian Commission  
Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee  
May 15, 2012  
Nevada Indian Commission  
5500 Snyder Ave., Building #3, Carson City, NV

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Chris Ann Gibbons, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Indian Commission; Veronica Domingues-Gephart, Native American Representative, Nevada Board for Early Intervention Services Interagency Coordinating Council; Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional, Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education; Donnie Moellendorf, Mental Health and Disabilities Manager, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Theresa Rowe, Manager, Head Start, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Mike Tinsley, Child Care Development Fund Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada; Sherry Ely-Mendes, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and Chairwoman, Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee; Sherry Ewing, Child Care Director, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Christi Jacobus, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

- I. Invocation
  - a. The invocation was given by Sherry Ely-Mendes.
- II. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Sherry Ely-Mendes called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- III. Initial Public Comment
  - a. There were no initial public comments made at the meeting.
- IV. For Possible Action: Approval of January 19, 2012 Meeting Minutes
  - a. With no changes made, Donnie Moellendorf motioned to approve the meeting minutes of January 19, 2012 seconded by Veronica Gephart. Motion carried.
- V. For Possible Action: Approval of April 17, 2012 Meeting Minutes
  - a. Donnie Moellendorf motioned to table the meeting minutes of April 17, 2012, seconded by Mike Tinsley. Motion carried.
- VI. For Possible Action: Update and Discussion on Tribal Early Childhood Public Awareness Video
  - a. Sherry Rupert said the focus for the Nevada Public Health Foundation grant has been changed. Committee members have decided to develop a video on tribal early childhood education. Margot Chappel from the Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office developed a similar video and has offered to share the script with the Committee.
  - b. Sherry R. said she will set up an appointment with KNPB regarding scheduling and costs and once a filming date is set individuals from the tribal community will be contacted to be a part of the video.
  - c. Donnie mentioned that Jenny Smokey might be good to include in the video. Jenny is a pediatrician and went through Head Start as a child.
  - d. Sherry Ely-Mendes asked if a brochure is still going to be created to coincide with the video. Sherry R. replied once we know costs relating to the video we will look into development of a brochure.

- e. Sherry R. said she will circulate a list of possible participants for review before it is finalized.

VII. For Possible Action: Discussion on Possible MOU with Early Intervention Services – Veronica Domingues-Gephart, Behavioral Health, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

- a. Veronica Domingues-Gephart introduced herself to the Committee and said she is the Native American representative for the Nevada Board for Early Intervention Services Interagency Coordinating Council.
- b. Veronica said one of her roles is to link early intervention services to tribes and for many years the tribal position on the Council was vacant. The Council has a grant to support outreach which includes tribal communities.
- c. Veronica said there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Head Start and tribes, but it does not include all of the tribes. She would like the MOU broadened to be more inclusive. The next EIS Interagency Coordination Council meeting is scheduled for July and Veronica said she would like to put the MOU on the agenda for discussion at that meeting.
- d. Suki Graves added the MOU was signed in 2004 by the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.
- e. Donnie said the Washoe Tribe did not sign the MOU because it was stalled within the tribe's legal department.
- f. Suki said the MOU exists as a model, but does not include all childcare programs for 0-3 year olds as the MOU is specific to Head Start requirements for disabilities and not applicable to the broader group including the Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC).
- g. Veronica said she would like to know what to include in the MOU to proceed. The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe does have an agreement with Early Intervention Services in place.
- h. Sherry Ely-Mendes said a general template should be created to show the benefit of the MOU to tribes. Also, the MOU may need to be different for each tribe depending upon needs.
- i. Veronica agreed there should not be a blanket MOU to cover all tribes.
- j. Donnie said the Child Find program is a great resource and is designed to locate, identify and refer as early as possible all young children with disabilities and their families who are in need of Early Intervention Program (Part C) or Preschool Special Education.
- k. San San Tin agreed the MOU would acknowledge tribal child care centers and be beneficial to both the tribes and the State.
- l. Veronica said collaboration is very important as the MOU will help the State hold its obligation to tribes.
- m. Donnie said the MOU template and video could be presented to tribes at the same time.
- n. Suki added presenting directly to the tribes will help the two parties learn more about each other and is the basis to create and maintain relationships.
- o. Veronica said she would like to have a roundtable on the MOU and will e-mail out possible meeting dates.

VIII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- a. Sherry R. announced the Nevada Indian Commission will be re-painting the historic Stewart "S" on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Also, the annual Stewart Father's Day Powwow will be held June 15-17<sup>th</sup> at Stewart.

- b. Mike Tinsley announced training will be held in Las Vegas June 25-28 on curriculum and he wanted to encourage child care home providers and child care center staff to attend. Also, included is a “Let’s move in Indian Country” event hosted by the Cherokee Nation.
- IX. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
  - a. Election of TECAC Vice-Chairperson
  - b. Update on Video and MOU
- X. For Possible Action: Scheduling and Location of Next Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee Meeting
  - a. The next meeting was scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm at the Nevada Indian Commission.
- XI. Final Public Comment
  - a. There were no final public comments made at the meeting.
- XII. Adjournment
  - a. Fredina Drye-Romero motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by San San Tin. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:47pm.